Stellenbosch University





Matthew Shaw | MChem Chemistry for Drug Discovery

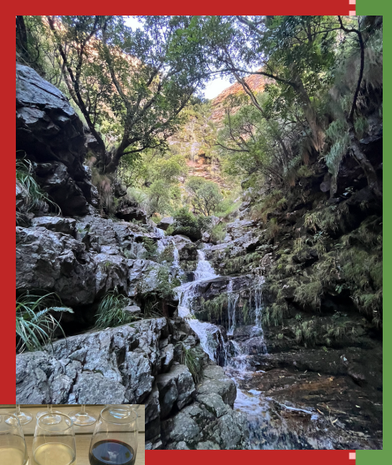
The University

- The campus is situated in the Western Cape 33 miles from Cape Town between the Boland mountains and the Western Cape winelands
- I took 3 16 credit courses from the chemistry and polymer science faculty each semester
- Being in the southern hemisphere the summer holidays are at Christmas allowing for travelling or a long trip home



Travel & Activities

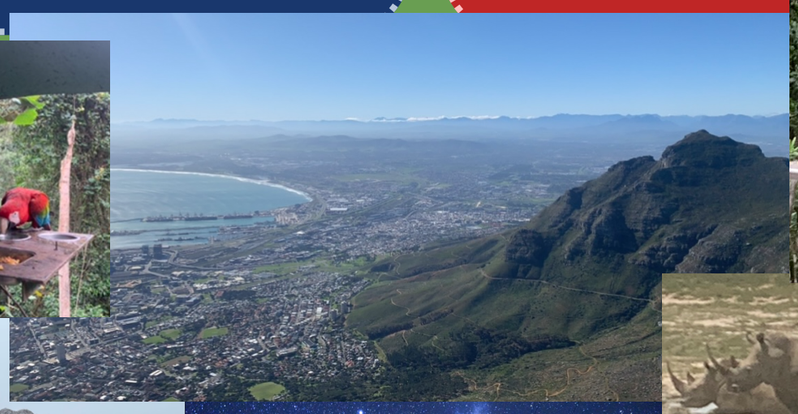
- South Africa is a beautiful country with fantastic walks
- Wine farms are a must!
- There is lots of areas to travel around, I did the garden route seeing lots of the countries wildlife













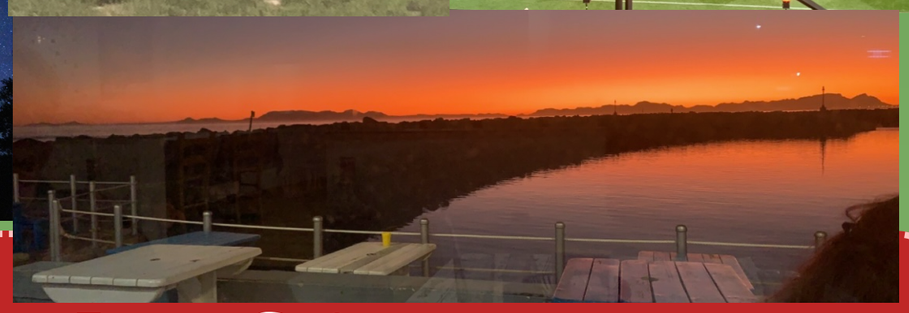












Student Life

- There are lots of sports clubs and societies - including an international society which held regular trips
- Between living in a student residence, having lab groups, and getting involved with societies making friends was easy
- Lots of pubs and clubs with cheap drinks (particularly brandy specials)



South Africa

- Whilst Stellenbosch is a bit of a student bubble, South Africa is still a dangerous place so it's best to take care on a day to day
- It's a beautiful country, that is very cheap to live in, and I met lots of friendly people
- One big culture shock was loadshedding, but braais made it okay



Research Project

- I undertook a computational project attempting to find a potential reaction pathway between carbon dioxide and acetylene within a metallocycle
- This involved searching for beneficial intermolecular interactions between different parts of the metallocycle and the gases
- Two pathways were suggested to form propiolic acid

